

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2018

The Hon. Megan J. Brennan
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-3500

Dear Postmaster General Brennan:

Over the past year, we Members of Congress representing the Hudson Valley have been in contact with the United States Postal Service (USPS) regarding a range of problems our constituents face with the Postal Service. We write today to call on the Postal Service to implement a broad, aggressive program to combat robberies and theft of mail across the Hudson Valley. We ask that this plan include an increase in the number of Postal Inspectors and investments in new technology to secure collection boxes.

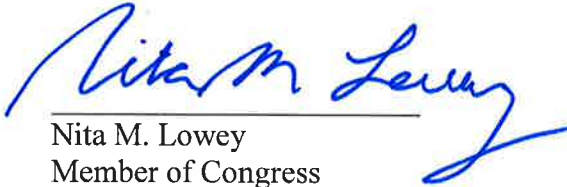
Mail theft threatens the livelihood of our constituents and impacts our most vulnerable populations. These thefts occur daily, rapidly and significantly decreasing the reliability of the Postal Service. Thieves are not only "fishing" mail out of collection boxes, but are stealing the entire mailbox or using keys acquired from postal employees.


Thieves use stolen mail to commit financial fraud and identity theft. Our constituents have been accused of missing payments, and some of their bank accounts have been emptied after thieves "wash" checks pulled from mailboxes. These widespread incidents cost our constituents large sums of money and much time to remedy, not to mention the confidence and peace of mind that the Postal Service prides itself on providing.

As outlined in the attached letter, Westchester County District Attorney Anthony Scarpino is working with Postal Inspectors and local law enforcement officers. However, he reports that the Postal Service has only six full-time Postal Inspectors to cover the Bronx and the counties in the Hudson Valley. We know from our constituents and from media reports that similar thefts have occurred in Rockland County, Bronx County, and elsewhere across our region of New York. The Postal Service must implement new technology to secure collection boxes and significantly increase the number of Postal Inspectors to prevent and investigate this epidemic of theft.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. We look forward to reviewing your plan.

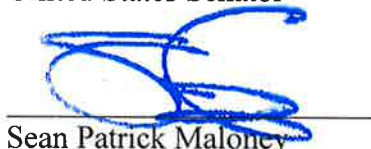
Sincerely,


Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress


Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator


Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator


Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress


Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Ronald A. Stroman
Deputy Postmaster General
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-0050



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
WESTCHESTER COUNTY
WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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(914) 995-4200

MAY 17 2018

ANTHONY A. SCARPINO, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

May 15, 2018

The Honorable Nita Lowey
The United States House of Representatives
222 Mamaroneck Avenue, #312
White Plains, NY 10605

Dear Congresswoman Lowey,

Westchester County has been experiencing a rash of robberies and thefts of mail. These thefts are occurring almost daily. Some of the crimes entail "fishing" the mail out of mail boxes, others involve the theft of the entire mail box, and some involve the sale of the keys to the mail boxes by postal employees.

Once the mail is stolen, the personal information is then used to "wash" the checks and steal the money. The other personal information is used for identity theft and other fraudulent activities. Residents are being wrongly accused of not paying their bills because their payments are stolen by postal thieves.

Our office has been working with Postal Inspectors and local law enforcement to catch these thieves. Unfortunately, the number of postal inspectors assigned to Westchester is woefully inadequate. We have been advised that there are three full time inspectors assigned to cover the Bronx, Westchester and some northern counties. Given the size of these counties and the pervasive thefts, this is ridiculous.

We need you to intervene immediately with the United States Postal Service to have them initiate a comprehensive program to aggressively address this problem. Our constituents deserve better. This is a serious problem that has victimized thousands of innocent people. People need to know their mail delivery system is safe and reliable. Only strong leadership from our Congressional representatives will ensure that this is given the attention it deserves.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



ANTHONY A. SCARPINO, JR.
District Attorney